

I urge the Maryland General Assembly to OPPOSE HB 1171, which would enshrine abortion in Maryland's Constitution. House Bill 1171 is an attempt to unnecessarily amend Maryland's Constitution to expand an already extreme abortion landscape under the guise of "reproductive liberty." There is no need for a Constitutional amendment.

Further, the ballot wording is incomplete, deceitful and misleading. It does not define reproductive liberty. It does not contain the word abortion. The effect of the wording "including but not limited to" becomes ominously clear when read with the wording of House Bill 626 (Senate Bill 669) — Pregnant Person's Freedom Act, which states:

"Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer personhood or any rights on the fetus."

Our state needs to support women and their children through life-affirming healthcare and practical resources that address basic needs and help them and us embrace the gift of life.

Maryland women, including women of color, immigrants and those living in poverty, want support that will allow them a true decision and the choice to be able to achieve their dreams and to raise their children. House Bill 1171 promotes unwanted abortion to women who are already marginalized. It underestimates the resiliency and abilities of women to parent and pursue their dreams at the same time. It is not more abortion that Maryland needs, but a clear understanding of the diverse demographics in our state in order to provide support and resources for growing families.